British Columbia
Ministry of Transportation
Staff Newsletter

Road Runner

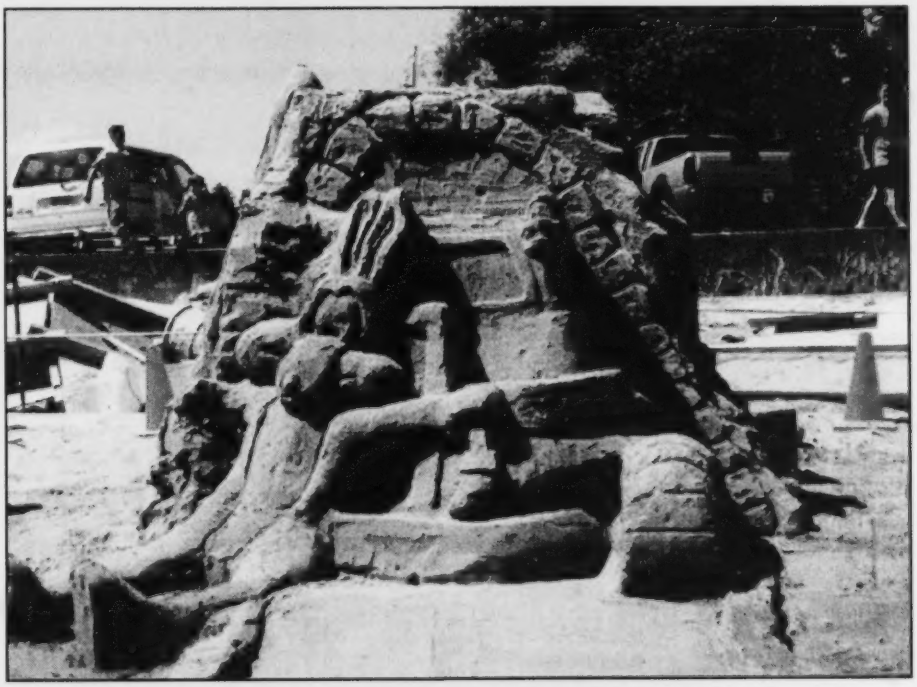
Online: http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/publications/roadrunners/index-roadrunners.htm Summer 2004

Field Services Farewells

On May 7, a good time was had by all at a retirement party at the Princess Mary Restaurant in Victoria to say farewell to "our guys." Svein Haugen, Acting Executive Director, Program Development and Monitoring, was MC for the farewell gala.

Mike Newton, Manager, Field Services, spoke on behalf of the retirees' wives and presented them with flowers and a gift. When the party was being planned, Mike insisted that the wives be recognized and receive flowers. The ladies were very

Continued on page 2



Wylie Coyote adorns the bumper of a semi-truck emerging from a tunnel in this sandcastle recreation of a Warner Bros. "Roadrunner" cartoon. For details, see page 3.

"Coneheads" mark 15 years taking part in 24-hour Relay for the Kids

The Coneheads team has been looked after for 11 years by Ministry of Transportation staff. Grant Smith and Jeff Moore have been involved since the beginning and are still going strong. Jeff still runs in it!! It is a great family event. Former MoT employee Brent Dozzi's family has been coming out from the time before he had any children, and now there are three boys that count on their first "camping trip" of the year at

Swanguard Stadium. The Coneheads team is made up of current and former ministry employees, as well as friends. The team was originally started with Mainroad Contracting 15 years ago. Three years into it, the organizer retired, and when it looked like it was going to go away the next year, the ministry folks took over. The Coneheads have raised well over $50,000 for this charity in their 15 years participating.

Field Services farewells (cont'd)

Jim Deutsch, Dennis Dodsworth, Steve Johnston

Our Farewells

Dennis Dodsworth, Provincial Manager, Field Services - 30 years

Jim Deutsch, Project Supervisor, Field Services - 29 years

Steve Johnston, Project Supervisor, Field Services and Honouree - 28 years

Tom Waring, Engineering Assistant, Field Services - VDP to spend more time with his children

Dan Doyle wishes Tom Waring well in retirement

(Continued from page 5)
impressed with their flowers. One of the wives made the comment that they were happy to be recognized for a change.

Dan Doyle, Deputy Minister, presented the guys with the ministry plaques, scrolls, ministry gifts and the minister's letter wishing them the best in the future.

Best wishes and stories were shared by various ministry staff on behalf of the honourees. Rodney Chapman, Director, Construction and Maintenance, spoke on behalf of Tom Waring and wished them all the best in the future. Svein Haugen spoke on behalf of Dennis Dodsworth. Barry Bergstrom, Manager, Field Services, spoke on behalf of Jim Duetsch. Dennis Dodsworth spoke on behalf of Steve Johnston. They all had good stories to tell.

Russ Zerr, who retired a few years ago from his position as Construction Manager, decided that it was time to pay Dennis Dodsworth back after what Dennis had done to him at his retirement party.

The funniest faux pas of the evening was when Dan Doyle called Steve Johnston up so he could present him with his plaque, scroll and other mementos. Steve came up to the front, took his plaque, scroll and gifts and basically ran off without saying a word. Dan looked at him like, "Are you not going to make a speech?" Steve looked at him and shrugged his shoulders and took off. (The look on their faces was priceless!) What actually happened was just before Steve was called up, he was told to make his speech after Dan called him up, and NOT after Dennis Dodsworth spoke on his behalf. Steve took it as, "Do not make a speech after Dan; make a speech after Dennis."

We were trying to keep the speeches down because everyone wanted to party, and party they did.

We would like to thank some of the people who made sure that this party was one of the best. Thanks go to Kevin Richter, Mike Newton, Barry Bergstrom, Don Shaw, Lois Parks, Maree Johnston and Judy Gunderson.

Kudos for an outstanding effort

Submitted by Connie Nicoletti, Senior Rehab, Construction & Paving Project Manager

Last fall, John Dyble, the Highways Department Assistant Deputy Minister, initiated the Early Tendering Strategy to maximize our construction season and challenged the ministry to early tender 33 per cent of the 2004-05 capital programs. This strategy was implemented on a short-term basis with a short timeframe requiring a very quick turnaround to achieve the goal.

Its success was due to the tremendous effort and dedication of many of you. The ministry not only met its goal of 33 per cent but in fact exceeded it. As a result, the ministry's construction season is well underway.

Recognition of outstanding effort

Continued on page 3

Risk management process launched

Submitted by Jeffrey Li, MBA Intern, Properties and Business Management Branch

"Which roads should we upgrade this year?" "Should I inspect the site today or just stay in the office to finish the report due tomorrow?" In today's world, we always feel that there just isn't enough time and resources to do everything we want to.

We are not alone! Everyone does. We are concerned about every decision made because most of these decisions involve risks: Cost overruns, road safety, customer complaints and more. The reality is you probably will never be able to get rid of these risks. The only feasible approach is to balance these risks appropriately at a comfortable level.

In late 2003, the Ministry of Transportation recognized the growing need to have a structured and consistent framework for risk management and, under the government wide risk management initiative, MoT launched a series of Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) pilot projects. One-day ERM training workshops for staff had already been held throughout the province over the past winter. Sponsored by John Dyble, Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations Department, an ERM team was formed that includes John Dowler, Don Shaw, Nash Jamal, Bob Corder, Vicki Willow, Russ Fuller and Andrew Green. Consulting firm Deloitte & Touche were also engaged to assist with this initiative.

From April to June this year, four pilot ERM Workshops (Field Services,

Continued on page 4

Team Roadrunner did the ministry proud in an early summer sandcastle competition

Sun, sand and water improve teamwork

On June 29, under sunny skies on Saanich Beach, staff from the Properties and Business Management Branch competed in this year's NEED Crisis and Information Line annual community awareness SandFest event, the sand sculpture competition. The team included Jim Prewett, Trish Sterloff, Nick May, Jeffrey Li, Yongmei Chen, Scott Gillespie, Eva Boenisch, Lingxia Li, Kenna Bilek and Ed Welwood.

Lots of hard work over five hours — with our own Jim Prewett, a Master Sand Sculptor, leading the team — resulted in the re-creation of a familiar Warner Bros. Roadrunner cartoon scene of a six-foot tunnel with Roadrunner driving a semi-truck through it and Wylie Coyote pasted on the bumper. It was made using only water and sand — no concrete or glue permitted! Thrifty Foods, Canada Post and Saanich Police also participated. The judges determined Canada Post as the winner, but rumour has it that MoT was a very close second. Way to go, Team Roadrunner!

Tendering strategy success draws kudos

(Continued from page 2)

goes to all of you who made this happen. Thank you Bill Rose, Bill Smith, Bob Hall, Bob Penner, Bob Webb, Brent Andrews, Chad Tenney, Cindi Trowbridge, Danny Voykin, Dave Mintak, Dave Schleppe, Dawn Beck, Don Wharf, Ernst Boeder, Gar Lee, George Lomas, Gerry Allen, Gerry Fleming, Greg Czernick, Greg Matisz, Greg Ross, Harold Boyden, Helen Evans, Jay Dunbar, Jim Guthrie, Julie Martin, Keith Callendar, Ken Aura, Len Romanow, Lina Halwani, Loris Tommasel, Maurice Lefrancois, Mike Newton, Mike Walsh, Nash Jamal, Pat Cruickshank, Pat Taylor, Patrick Livolsi, Reg Lawrence, Rick Blixrud, Rusty Hewitt, Sharon Goddard, Steve Husband, Tim Dyer, Tim Meszaros, Todd Hubner, Tony Bennett, Val Fabick, Vince Trozzo, Wayne Dawson, Wilfred Fry, Ritchie Pastor, Mike McLaren . . . and all of you.

A special thank you goes to the South Coast Region's Contract Administration Support Services for their outstanding performance.

This is an accomplishment to be proud of. We welcome your active participation in shaping a future early tendering process that is more efficient and effective such that we can maximize our construction seasons on every project, every time.

Congratulations, everyone!

Bike to Work Week

Submitted by Alan Callander, Provincial Cycling Coordinator

June 7 to 13, 2004 was Bike to Work Week in Victoria. Bike to Work Week is a campaign that focuses on encouraging people to commute to work by bicycle.

The primary activity of Bike to Work Week is the Commuter Challenge, in which employee-teams from various work sites are challenged to outdo each other's participation in commuter cycling.

Teams from the ministry's Transportation Planning and Policy Department (Bike Me), Construction and Maintenance Branch (Riding with Cahoon), and a team that covered Partnerships, Engineering, Finance and Public Affairs Branches (Out-Spok'n) participated in the event.

A total of 42 riders travelled to and from headquarters on bikes that week.

One of the highlights for the week was a group photo with Minister Falcon and members from all the teams on steps of the Legislative building. Also to help celebrate the week, some of the teams had daily treats, prizes, and potluck lunches. I was very pleased to see everyone wearing a helmet and obeying the rules of the road on their way back to work at the ministry.

Fred R. Hughes has left the building

After 34 years of service with the Ministry, most of them on the Survey Crew in Saanich, Fred has retired. Fred C. Hughes will now have e-mail to himself.

Jon Buckle retires

Submitted by Norm Parkes, Regional Manager, Programming, Kamloops

On March 31, 2004, Jon Buckle weighed anchor and sailed off into retirement. Throughout his 32-year career, Jon contributed to many significant changes in the ministry. Most recently, he was a key participant in the privatization of maintenance, worked tirelessly on two major reorganizations with an emphasis on people management.

In 2003, Jon received the Queen's Jubilee Commemorative gold medal for his contributions to British Columbia and the Deputy Minister's Recognition Award for Public Service. Jon was also known for his honesty, integrity and compassion. We wish Jon, Irene and their family a long, happy, healthy retirement.

Enterprise Risk Management leads to better decision-making

(Continued from page 5)
Engineering Branch, Northern Region and Vancouver Island District) were conducted across the province by the ERM project team and Deloitte & Touche.

"I think they were very successful workshops." said Vicki Willow, the Project Manager. "After each full day workshop, the participants walked away with a common risk management language and practical approaches they can apply in their work, the management and staff in the region identified their key risks as well as risk treatment recommendations, and the ERM team gained valuable experience to use in the development of options for broader ERM implementation in the future."

While risk management is not new to the ministry (given the nature of our business, the ministry has been managing risks for many years), ERM does have some specific characteristics.

ERM is a structured and disciplined approach to managing risk. It aligns strategy, processes, people, technology and knowledge with the purpose of evaluating and managing the uncertainties the ministry faces as it seeks to achieve its objectives.

Through the ERM process, staff identify risks to the achievement of goals, the possible frequency of occurrence of those risks, the likely impact if the risks were to occur, and strategies to mitigate those risks.

One feature of ERM is cross-boundary risk management. Traditionally, risk management has been seen as an activity in silos that could be focused on different risk areas such as financial, insurance, continuity planning, etc. ERM, in contrast, provides a broad cross-organization framework to address risk management.

As Andrew Green, a member of the ERM project team mentioned: "The ERM program provides our ministry with a great opportunity to look at all of the risks it is exposed to; it will help decision-makers to make informed decisions by being aware of various risks, not only the risks in one area but the risks across the board."

As a cost-effective risk management methodology, ERM also emphasizes risk priority and risk tolerance level. Staff are not expected to eliminate all risks. Instead, ERM provides a process to help people prioritize risks and set up reasonable risk tolerance levels by aligning the risks with the strategies, goals and objectives of the ministry.

Vicki explained: "People can take some risks and focus on the ones beyond the risk tolerance level. Decision-makers at each level end up with a statement of their most pressing business risks, normally the top five risks, often with some effective risk treatment recommendations, forming useful input when making decisions and distributing resources."

Managing risks is a key priority for this team

The pilot projects have been very successful. "People are very supportive, participation is good, and we have received very positive feedback" Vicki mentioned, "The intention is that ERM will not add additional process but will evolve what we are already doing. ERM can be woven into existing day-to-day business processes to help people think about risk and document their risk-associated decisions."

Participants bought into the ERM approach almost immediately. "Field Services had the ERM workshop two months ago, now everyone is talking managing risk and everyone is talking risk tolerance level." Don Shaw, construction manager in Field Services commented. Based on the success of the pilot projects, the working group is now reviewing how to move the initiative forward.

"I really enjoy working with Vicki and the project team. I am impressed by the work done by the consultants. I hope and believe the ministry will bring this initiative into the future with greater success." Andrew Green commented.

When talking about the future of the initiative, Vicki told us: "We are wrapping up the pilot sessions, talking about what we have learned and will report our findings and recommendations for the future to ministry senior management."

Truck driver, partner thankful for arrestor bed on Highway 24

Submitted by Julian Malinsky, District Business Manager

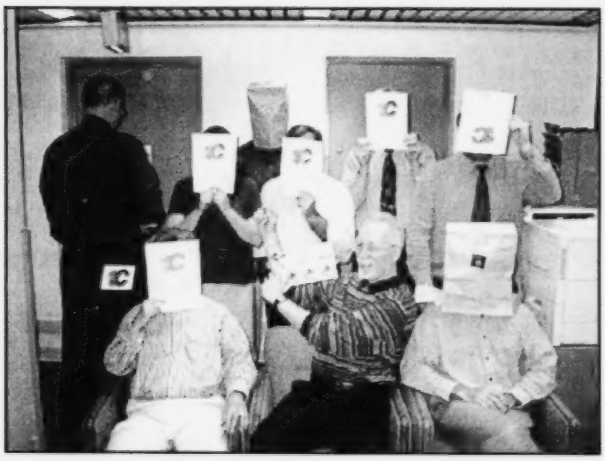
On May 22, Frank Dacho, Director Project Management Services for the Southern Interior Region, was driving on Highway 24 and noticed a truck/semi trailer in an arrestor bed at the bottom of the 10 km Hill, five kilometres we .t of Little Fort at Cartwright Road.

The incident occurred at 10:30 a.m. and Frank arrived at 2 p.m., just before the tow truck appeared. Frank took pictures and talked to the truck driver.

The trailer was fully loaded (estimated 82,000 pounds gross weight) and travelled approximately three-quarters of the arrestor bed length before coming to a complete stop. The driver estimated he was traveling between 140 and 160 km/h when he entered the arrestor bed.

The only apparent damage was a broken off air hose caused by the loose gravel in the bed. The driver feels the arrestor bed likely saved his and his partner's lives, as he did not think it would have been possible to negotiate the S-curves beyond the arrestor bed. The driver did not give any reason the earlier runaway lanes above the arrestor bed were not used.

Frank, thank you for sharing the story.



Maybe next year...

Submitted by Ryan Oakley, EIT

Victoria Highway Planning Branch giving their support for their "favourite" team, the Calgary Flames.

Back row, from left: Jim Hester, Brenda Larkin, David Fisher, Mark Lynch, John Coombs, Adrian Vander-Velden. Front row, from left: Jerry Gerrard, Jon Conquist, Chuck Hutchinson

Sign shop designer has talent to spare

Larry Macko was hired as a sign designer for the Sign Shop in the fall of 2000.

He has been artistic throughout his life and pursued his talents in the Graphic Design and Illustration program at Capilano College in North Vancouver.

Larry likes to unwind from life with his art from time to time, as well as producing contract jobs.

At right is an example of a fairly recent private commission.

Larry Macko

"Voodoo Child"

Making a splash around the world!

Submitted by Gloria Valle, Manager, Corporate Writing Services

Louise Kennedy, Senior Budget Officer, is off to The Big Easy, New Orleans, on July 18 for a week of judging at the US Open Synchro Swim Championships. In August, she is off to Athens, Greece and the Olympic Games, not judging but as "Head of Delegation" for Synchro Canada. Synchro takes place during the second week of the Olympics, August 23-27. GO CANADA!

Louise also attended the COC (Canadian Olympic Committee) Convention last April as well as participated in one of the Sport Canada Round Table discussions on funding for Amateur Sport the same month.

During Kennedy's time as a competitor, there was no national team program. But that didn't stop her from excelling in the sport from a young age.

Louise Kennedy, president of Synchro Canada, synchronized swimming's governing body in Canada

"The pool was three blocks away," she said. "My folks said if you live that close to a pool, you're going to learn to swim."

And Kennedy learned well. Over a 12-year competitive career ending in 1975, she reached national competitions and became a B.C. champion. Since then, she has advanced steadily through the ranks of judges and officials. She has judged countless regional and provincial competitions, and since 1991, she has judged internationally, venturing to Japan, Spain, Sweden and other far-flung points around the globe.

A past member of Synchro Canada's officials management team and the association's ethics committee, she was elected president of the 10,000-member organization in 2002.

"It's a lot of work. You try to make a difference, try to help the sport develop. If we can make a difference for the athletes, then I've done my job," Kennedy said. One of the key challenges for synchronized swimming, as for all amateur sport, is funding. For years, there has been ongoing debate over the role of federal sport funding and the way it should be directed.

"I would like to see sport bodies become less reliant on the federal government," she said. "With Synchro Canada, we're trying to find benefactors or sponsors. If people realized the value of sport, that it makes not just better swimmers or better runners, but better people, maybe it would be easier to gain that support."

Business and judging aside, Kennedy will have a rich experience at the US Open and of course, the Olympics.

Check out these Olympic Web sites:

www.athens2004.com/athens2004

www.olympic.ca/splash.html

Management Development Program update

Submitted by Tammy Longbottom, Manager, HR Planning and Development

The initial recruitment for the Management Development Program was completed in April. An orientation session was held in Vancouver on May 13, where candidates learned about the program and career and competency development. Dan Doyle and Dave Byng were guest speakers at the session.

Overall it was a great kick-off to the program. Participants have created their training and development plans and most participants have commenced their first assignments. As developmental opportunities become available, we will continue to match participants with suitable opportunities.

More info: http://gww.th.gov.bc.ca/gwwmdp/Content/home/overview.asp

What ever happened to Neville Hope?

Submitted by Neville Hope

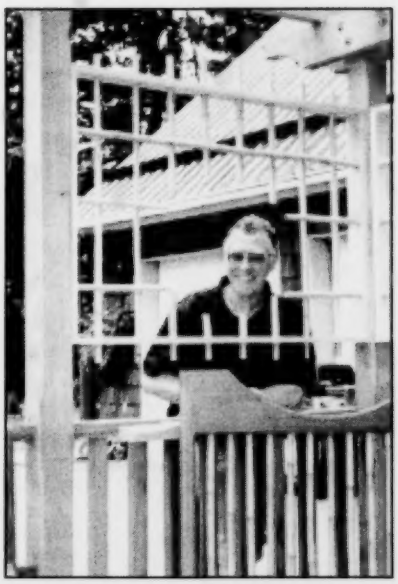
Since 'hanging up my slide rule' as Regional Director in mid-June 2002, I have been trying to follow the advice of one of my wife Eleanor's former workmates, who told her at her retirement party to "only do those things which are worthwhile to you." For me this includes a whole range of things, from a weekly golf game and occasional tennis match with John Bodnarchuk, to volunteering at the Port Theatre in Nanaimo, working on the Crisis Line in Courtenay and recently becoming a member of the board of a Family Services organization here in the Comox Valley.

When I was considering retirement, I had some reservations about it, as unlike many folk, I really didn't have many pursuits that I felt really passionate about. I had many interests but few that I yearned to get away from work to pursue avidly, other than perhaps our love of travel, but there are certain financial restrictions around that!. However, for those of you in a similar situation, I can say it proved fairly effortless to make the transition, and once Eleanor finished work, we quickly found our new niches.

In the fall of 2002, we took our newly acquired truck and camper and travelled for nine weeks across Canada and the USA. This was a real eye-opener to see just how big and beautiful our country is - and how much federal money seems to be available from the Ontario border eastwards!

The biggest surprise for us was southern Utah and its magnificent national parks. We had not researched this area at all and were just looking for a route back to B.C. This proved to be a very enjoyable leg of our journey home.

Beijing, China



At home after a patio renovation in 2003

Shinnog Brook, a Yangtze tributary

Last fall, our travel bug took us on a 15-day trip to China, a country almost as large as Canada (96%), with a population of 1.3 billion. As well as Beijing (summer Olympics 2008) and Shanghai, we visited Chongqing, with a population of 32 million (yes, that's the same as all of Canada). The city of Beijing, like all the cities we saw in China, is booming with construction. It is claimed that of all the construction cranes in the world, 80% of them are busy working in China. We also saw a lot of construction underway with water buffalo and wicker baskets carried on men's backs for carrying construction materials. It's a country of tremendous contrasts.

Walking on the Great Wall is indeed an amazing experience. It is hard to comprehend that it is about 4,000 miles long and was originally built by a series of vying warlords about 3,000years ago.

We also visited the Terra Cotta Warriors near Xian, the first capital of China. There are about 8,000 life-size soldiers, built to protect the first emperor in his afterlife. We also spent three days on the Yangtze River and toured the nearly completed Three Gorges dam site. This is an immense undertaking, built primarily for flood control, but a secondary benefit is the electric power it generates, producing nine times the output of the Hoover dam in Colorado. The dam itself is 2.3 km long, and some 1.3 million people have been or will be relocated by the project. China is rapidly moving to a free-market economy, and you can buy just about anything there (most of the things we buy here are now made there!). There are some amazing buys to be had, with all the fun of bartering you find in Mexico, but the people are much more gracious about it. We found the people to be very friendly and helpful, even despite the language barrier.

When not travelling and not attending other folks' retirement parties, we have spent a lot of time working on our half-acre pad in Fanny Bay, making some significant additions both inside and out and converting what was just second-growth 'bush' when we moved in, to our piece of paradise. We'd love to see any of our old friends from the ministry if you're travelling on the Island, and Eleanor is a fabulous cook (eating is another of those worthwhile things I like to do!). By the way, I am delighted with the new format of the Road Runner. Keep up the great work.

Golf shirts for all...

On June 28, the Okanagan-Shuswap District staff were presented with golf shirts to recognize the staff (retroactively) for being the highest ranked district in the 2002 Customer Satisfaction Survey. Note that the staff member to the right of the photo is holding up an extra golf shirt. This is in recognition of our colleague, Ron Stratton, Area Manager (Salmon Arm) who was unable to be there with us. Ron is currently battling a very serious illness and the staff just wanted Ron to know that, by way of this photo, he is there with us and our thoughts and best wishes are with him and his family.

Submitted by Grant Lachmuth, DMT, Okanagan-Shuswap

On top of the world

Above is Scott Aitken, Snow Avalanche Technician, Coast Chilcotin Program, de-riming a radio repeater on Mt. Cassiope. Highway 99 North and the Pemberton valley are in the background. At right is Scott Aitken, installing a cornice splitter to protect a Gaz.ex exploder above Hwy 99N at Duffey Lake.

Submitted by Doug Tuck, Assistant Avalanche Technician

Cycling the Corsican Way

Submitted by Patrick C. Livolsi

Last September, my wife and I packed up our bicycles and flew over to Europe for a wonderful five week holiday of cycle touring and backpacking in Southern France and Corsica. We wanted to share some of our pictures and adventures with you, particularly the ones that are more "transportation" related.

We arrived in Nice only to discover that our bicycles had decided not to join us in France. Fortunately, we hadn't planned to use them immediately and they were successfully delivered three days later in good condition. While enjoying the sites of Nice, we discovered that pedestrians do not enjoy the same respect from drivers as in North America - you literally take your life in your own hands, even when you supposedly have the right of way such as in a crosswalk. This of course did not bode well for our upcoming cycle touring. If they treat their pedestrians this way - what do they do to the cyclists!

Cows on the road, a common traffic hazard

Well were we surprised. If we thought pedestrians were rated slightly higher than a speed bump, cyclists were revered to almost mythical proportions. We could do no wrong. Motorists patiently waited behind you for an opportunity to pass - no honking, no fingers, and no running us off the road. Cycling is part of the French culture - and I'm sure that having the Tour de France as a national treasure doesn't hurt either. If only they could be so respectful back home....

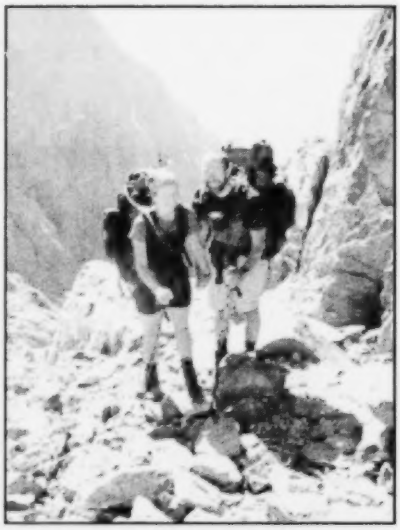
We traveled the coastal route from Nice to Marseilles and then half the coastline of the island of Corsica. Corsica is one of those islands that has always had fairly peaceful and laid-back inhabitants that kept getting invaded by one country after another, century after century (sounds a lot like how the Gulf Island people must feel!). An interesting feature of Corsica is that the oldest villages are up on the mountain tops, whereas the newer ones (though still a couple of hundred years old) are along the coast. The reason is that the invaders would attack by boat and raid and destroy the coastal cities but they basically avoided going into the interior to continue their pillaging.

My guess is that they were too lazy to climb to the top of the mountains simply to be greeted with hot oil and rocks being thrown at them! Needless to say, Corsicans are rather touchy about the last invasion and occasionally they threaten to regain their independence by blowing something up. Thankfully they treated us very well during our stay.

The coastal roadway network in southern France is in pretty good shape - most of the high speed roadways have decent shoulders and for the others there are usually alternate marked routes with lower traffic volumes and nicer scenery.

Corsica on the other hand, is still well behind in their transportation network. Usually there were no shoulders, maybe a centre line and occasionally the width for only one car at a time.

There was also no concrete roadside barrier to be seen. Instead you get unprotected drop-offs of 100 meters or so, or an occasional non-reinforced rock wall barrier with no flare protection or hazard markers. In Canada we would probably call this Context Sensitive Design. Many of the motorists traveling the roadways were tourists who were used to the excellent roadways on the mainland, but on these roadways they were much more sober in their driving style! For cyclists limited to speeds of 30 km/h, it was a dream.



A successful hike on the Cirque de Solitude

On Corsica we also did a seven-day backpack trip on the GR20 - one of the top trails in Western Europe climbing over the major mountain chain on the island.

On this part of the trip we encountered the famed Genoan "paved" roadway. The ancient road is made of individual rocks manually placed to form a relatively "flat" pathway that could be used by donkeys with carts.

The highlight of the backpack trip was the Cirque de Solitude. Though it may sound like a peaceful and relaxing little location, it is over 2,200 meters in altitude and requires the use of ladders and chains to prevent you from going over the drop-offs.

Overall we had an excellent trip with only one day of rain. We're looking forward to returning and finishing the island and maybe hopping over to Sardinia and checking out the Italian culture next time!

Bebington leaves MoT

Submitted by Lorna Leslie, Special Events and Permits Coordinator

The Lower Mainland District celebrated the retirement of Paul Bebington after more than 32 years with the Ministry of Transportation on April 16 at the Giggle Dam comedy dinner club in Port Coquitlam.

Many friends, family and co-workers came to see Paul bare his chest, don a skirt, blonde wig and blue feather boa and strut his stuff on stage.

This was a far cry from the Paul that we saw daily in the office, buried under a pile of paper, plans and concentrating on the details of the RIMS system. Major highways as well as obscure little roads in the Lower Mainland District were fixed not only on paper but in Paul's brain.

Paul is also very involved in the Seaforth Cadet Corps, taking youth camping most weekends and at training sessions three to four times per week. We wish Paul a long and happy retirement.

Art Barry new manager of Electrical Services

Art Barry started in the ministry in 1979 working with Design and Survey in Victoria and Nelson.

After a stint as an Area Manager in Rock Creek, Art moved on to be Regional Operations Technician.

Effective April 1, 2004, Art started in his new position and we wish him luck.

Road Runner

Read it online at:

www.th.gov.bc.ca/publications/roadrunners/index-roadrunners.htm

Life after the Provincial Highway Conditions Centre

Submitted by Stan Kravetz, PHCC Operator

Summer 2004 and now into the third year since retirement and voluntary departures brought about changes to a workgroup that had been status quo for many years. May 1 marked 16 years for me as part of the Provincial Highway Conditions Centre.

The voluntary departures included Kim Seale (March 2003), who's flying the friendly skies doing traffic reports for Vancouver radio station JACK-FM along with periodic weekend on-location broadcasts. Ed Allain (February 2003) is a communications operator with the Canadian Coast Guard and is currently working out of Prince Rupert, after receiving his training in Nova Scotia. I fully expect Ed to return to Vancouver at some point in the future with the Coast Guard.

As for retirees:

Marilyn Kinley (February 2001) resides in Merritt but visits the Lower Mainland to see her daughters and grandchildren.

Keith Winsor (March 2002) resides in Aldergrove and very much enjoys retirement and grandfather duties.

Gar Moorman (March 2002) resides in Hope and enjoys travelling with his wife and golfing.

Claudette Grosset (2002) resides in Penticton but is looking to have Langley become her retirement home soon.

Lou Mitchell was travelling Europe with his wife in May and moved to Parksville in July. He has two grandchildren, with a third due in November. Golfing and perfecting afternoon couch snoozes have made Lou a Happy Camper

At the White Spot Restaurant in Walnut Grove (Langley), a group of former PHCC staff includes, clockwise from the head of the table on the right: Ed Allain, Calgary Bell Mobility rep; coworker Gina Botelho, former PHCC staff; Stan Kravetz, longest serving PHCC staff member; Catherine Worley, MOT Lower Mainland District office but currently on maternity leave; Keith Winsor; Kim Seale.

Having spent many hours together, be it in the midst of major winter storms, rainy season or during warm summer days, efforts are continually underway to reunite for a nibble and sip.

Southern Interior's Properties 2004/05 Roster

Submitted by Darren Lincoln, Manager, Property Services

The Southern Interior Region's Properties Group has gone through quite a roster change. Although battle-scarred from restructuring and retirement, further retirement and one last fling with retirement, our once large group is now beginning to settle in to our old barn, the Regional Building, and a new team identity is being formed. While some of the old household names like Jones, Doyle and Walker have gone on to greener pastures, new staff with more difficult spelling and pronunciation has evolved such as Klingbeil, Luison and Holota. As a result of all the roster changes, we thought it would be the opportune time to get everyone familiarized with names, faces and positions. Our new team shapes up something like this:

Darren Lincoln, Manager Property Services; Ramona Holota, First Nation Coordinator; Bob Pratt, Property Acquisition Coordinator; Penny Radies, Regional Property Administrator; Mark Collins, Property Acquisition Coordinator; Debbie Luison, Property Management/Land Survey Coordinator; Karl Klingbeil, Senior First Nation Coordinator

Player Profiles:

Debbie Luison - After securing a first round draft choice in the sign shop closure, Properties successfully signed Debbie as a Property Management/Land Survey Coordinator. Deb brings a high level of energy to the team and has already taken on many challenges in her new role and is settling in nicely. Award Candidate - the Calder for Rookie of the Year!

Bob Pratt, just off his Properties World Cup Tour with stops in Nanaimo, Terrace and Prince George, has found a home for his family in Kamloops. Bob brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to our team and continues to solidify the Property Acquisition Coordinator position. Bob is our Rock on the blue line and continues to role out volumes of work. Award Candidate - the Norris for Best Defense.

Mark Collins, after more than 11 seasons on the Island was picked-up last year on waivers after the Island disbanding. Since joining the Southern Interior Properties, Mark has obtained three different positions but has now settled into his role as a Property Acquisition Coordinator. Sparky continues to impress. His never say die, persistent attitude drives him to succeed. He should set some career numbers for property settlements this year. Award Candidate - The Bill Masterson for Perseverance and Dedication!

Karl Klingbeil has tested the free agent market over the last 20 years with Geotech, Planning and the Thompson-Nicola District before arriving in Properties. Karl's new role as the Senior First Nation Coordinator will be full of new and interesting challenges. His expertise in the various areas of the Ministry has already paid dividends in his new position. Award Candidate - The Vezina (goalie - he may take the most shots of anyone in Properties)!

Ramona Holota, our newest team member and First Nation Coordinator, joins us with two previous stints in two foreign leagues, "Forestry and Environment". Ramona is glad to be back in the government and we are very happy to have her in the line-up and part of our team. Ramona brings more than 11 years of Government service dealing with First Nations in the Southern Interior and has stepped up to the challenges ahead. She brings a fresh and positive attitude to our group and the Regional building. Award Candidate - The King Clancy for Leadership and Inspiration!

Penny Radies is our most seasoned veteran. After holding out for a short stint in Contracts, Penny has re-signed with Properties as our Regional Property Clerk and is having a banner, MVP caliber year. Where would we be without Penny? At the bottom of the standings for sure. Trying to survive without Penny is like a hockey player without a cup - SCARY!! Award Candidate - The Hart for MVP to the team!

For myself, Darren Lincoln, now behind the bench as the new Manager of Property Services, I am excited about the challenges ahead of our team. The entire staff has stepped up during this time of transition and growth to support the business unit and each other. So, with that in mind: GAME ON!!

Project managers excel

Submitted by Gerry Fleming, Project Manager

During the summer of 2003, Jay Dunbar, Regional Manager, Project Delivery for South Coast Region, asked his relatively new group of project managers and senior technicians if they would be interested in participating in a new training program that was to be offered by the University of Victoria during the winter, called the Masters Certificate in Project Management.

Above, from left to right: Wayne Jentsch, Lina Halwani, Dave Mintak, Val Fabick, Gerry Fleming, Terry Murphy. Below, Daryl Finlayson and Gar Lee.

Seven members of his staff accepted the offer, and were also joined by Daryl Finlayson, Design Consultant Liaison Engineer.

The program was expensive, and the participants' commitment would be their time for homework, and to attend on scheduled week-end training days, about 50 per cent of the curriculum.

The program consisted of nine in-class sessions, most of them two days in length, with one one-day session and one three-day session, and was delivered concurrently in Vancouver and in Victoria.

The first session was in November 2003 and the final one near the end of March 2004.

We were divided into teams to work on a project that eventually led to the production of three paper airplanes, and generally the assigned homework after each session was tied into this project to some extent.

This format helped to stimulate competition between the teams and also helped to put the lessons into context for a 'real' project. Because I'm such a humble guy, I will not mention which team won the competition for Vancouver; let's just say that the others were not on that particular team.

The program was both challenging and rewarding. For those who attended in Vancouver, only the first one day introduction session did not occur on a weekend and there was one memorable session in January where we were in class for the entire weekend.

Coupled with this, we were working hard to meet the goals of the early tender initiative when we got back to the office.

The course is described by the UVic Program Director as having one goal in mind: to create great project managers. In my opinion, that is an accurate description.

We had a total of seven different instructors; each one experienced in project management generally, each with a specific area of expertise and from a different area of industry, able to provide a different perspective on problems and solutions.

My personal favorite was Court Stevens who has a background in the Canadian Military. Court discussed his involvement in a project to develop and produce parachutes - errors have very serious and immediate consequences. Our classmates came from a variety of industries, City of Vancouver, IT companies, School District, Duke Energy and project management consultants, to name a few, which allowed for some great discussions about diverse types of project experiences.

Now that we have all successfully completed the course, we are primed to try out these new tools. Several participants plan to use this program as a first step towards certification as a Project Management Professional (PMP) with the Project Management Institute, widely recognized as the leading certification body for project management.

Rest area ambassadors on the job

Submitted by Trish Sterloff, Manager, Business Services

A great opportunity has been presented to students around British Columbia! On June 26, 2004, Minister Kevin Falcon announced the Rest Area Enhancement Project. The goal? To increase the level of maintenance and cleanliness in our rest areas and act as "ambassadors" to B.C.'s travellers.

This project will also provide students with an opportunity to get to know the Ministry of Transportation while earning some money for school.

Approximately 150 students from cities and towns around British Columbia have been hired and will work in rest areas until the new school year begins (just after Labour Day). Duties include mowing, landscaping, litter pickup, cleaning and handling information requests, to name a few.

The students have been trained in WHMIS safety training, Super Host training and most were trained in Level 1 First Aid. In fact, a group of our "rangers" put their training to good use shortly after arriving on the job.

Jim Morrison from Wildstone Engineering writes: "On Thursday, July 1, our Chase East team consisting of Josh Heinrich & Jesse Fraser were the first on the scene of a vehicle accident just east of the Chase Creek Rest Area.

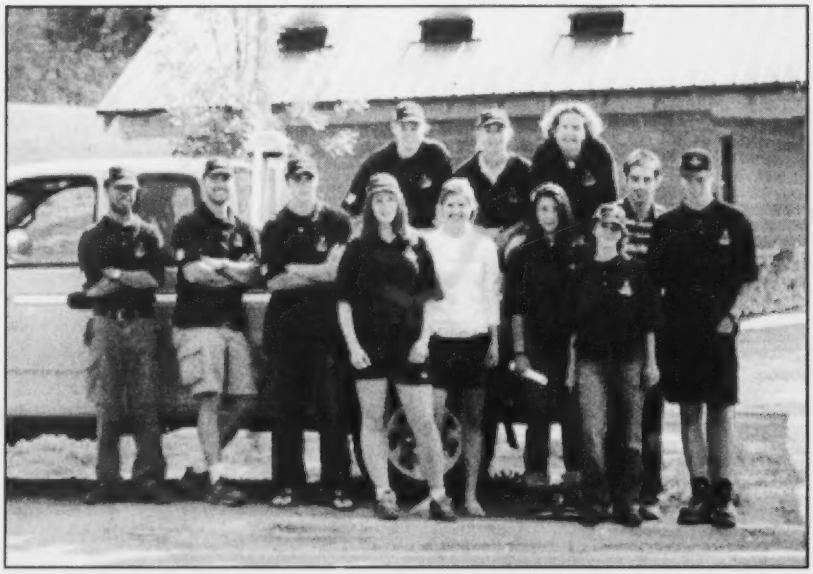
Two vehicles collided and one individual was pinned in their vehicle. Our crew attended the scene first, armed with their first aid kit and began preliminary first aid as they were taught in their first aid course the day before.

Fortunately, there were no serious injuries with exception to shock. Our crew stayed on-site with the injured parties until the first response arrived."

Overall, the project has been getting very positive feedback, with some visitors commenting that we are helping to put the "Beautiful" back in "Beautiful British Columbia".

The districts are extremely impressed with the caliber of students that they were able to hire, and students have been not only doing their jobs, but coming up with ways to deliver a higher quality of service.

When you are out driving around the province, make sure to stop in and say hi to these hardworking students!



The Cariboo team

Dave Duncan, DMT, Fort St. John and Kristi Koop at Taylor Hill Rest Area

Trying a new management model

Submitted by Jack Bennetto, DMT, Rocky Mountain District (a.k.a. Lead Theologist)

The Rocky Mountain District team has been exploring new models for project delivery and management. With this initiative we have implemented some new approaches to enhance the existing project management tools ministry project teams already employ. To test our new project management theories, we decided to implement some of these new tools on a trial basis on one of our projects in the District to see if we could achieve the desired results.

We are now pleased to announce that we have exceeded our expectations, with the project being ahead of schedule at costs below budget targets. Due to these achievements we offer our ministry's other business units our formula for success.

Early in the planning phases we invited the new Regional Director, Southern Interior Region, Tracy Cooper, to our project office, an old church located on Ha Ha Creek Road (no kidding) to review our project direction. We used this venue to pray that the Director provide an increase in budget, one large enough to mitigate the challenges of repetitive value engineering initiatives. This gave us the opportunity to complete the project ahead of schedule.

In the next phase we changed the make-up of our project management team to include a new position, a position we now title the 'project theologist' because of his unorthodox but very successful style of project management.

Because of the huge success in the delivery of this project, the Rocky Mountain District will be offering project management courses to other ministry business units.

To register, simply:

* Ensure your business unit has sufficient budget to donate significant funds to the Rocky Mountain District social fund,

* Submit your resume, indicating your skills and experience in delivering projects,

* Pray our theologist will endorse your application to attend our courses,

* If accepted, bring a wardrobe of your new construction site clothing!

* Our theologist will comment on the quality and style of your clothing at the first social that your fees will be funding.

Enroll in our courses and you too will be successful in delivering projects in your future!

We look forward to your participation and success at our new project management courses, held at our new Ha Ha Creek Training Centre for Higher Learning.

Upon completion of our courses, you will be certified with a Masters degree in Project Delivery from Ha Ha Creek University.

Our new Project Theologist at the construction site with his unorthodox but successful style of project management

The first phase was to invite the Regional Director to the project church to pray for money

New ministry roles for sign shop staff

Submitted by the Ex-Sign Shop Staff

The recent closure of the Provincial Sign Shop last February marked an end to one ministry operation and yet opened up a new path for the nine remaining staff. All nine staff have moved on within the ministry to take on new roles and challenges.

Although change is tough at times and our comfort levels have evaporated for the short term, we are all doing fine and look forward to what the future brings. We all just wanted to thank the many who supported us and praised our efforts when we were a team at the Sign Shop. Now we are members of new teams and would like to let our ministry friends know where we are working.

From left to right: Ross McLean, Murray Smith, Audrey Bulk, Liaquat Mohammad, Beth Watling, Paul Riegert, Jeanne Wilson, Ray Beuckert, Debbie Luison, Larry Macko, Brian Lloyd, John MacWhinnie, Cecil Bianco, Warren Belcher and Geoff McDade. Missing is Sue Pare.

Ross McLean - Provincial Sign Manager in Kamloops working on programs under direction of Sherry Eland

Murray Smith - remains the ministry's only Sign Design Technician based in Kamloops working for Ross.

Brian Lloyd - is now the only Sign Technologist providing support to Ross in delivering provincial programs

Debbie Luison - has accepted a job as the SIR Property Management Land Survey Coordinator

Sue Pare - is also working in the SIR office as an Administrative Assistant

Paul Riegert - also moved into the SIR building assisting Dave Prehara and regional operations

Larry Macko - is training in Development Approvals in the Thompson Nicola District (Kamloops)

Warren Belcher - is training in Development Approvals in the Okanagan Shuswap District (Penticton)

Cecil Bianco - has moved to Kelowna as the District Operations Assistant in the Okanagan Shuswap District

The lessons we learned and friends we made at the Sign Shop will stay with us and help us in our careers.

We found that by working as a team, our ability to satisfy our customers could not be surpassed. We look forward to bringing our abilities to our new workplace.

Construction and Maintenance Branch says goodbye to Shanna Mason

In May 2004, the Construction & Maintenance Branch staff at Headquarters said goodbye to Shanna Mason, who had won the position of Director of Field Services in Kamloops. Shanna's strong, effective leadership as A/Manager, Maintenance Programs and prior to that as Manager, Occupational Safety, as well as her vibrant personality, have left many positive memories of her. Shanna was presented with framed prints, mementos of Victoria and those she left behind. She is missed by us all and we look forward to seeing her whenever she is in Victoria.

Thompson-Nicola team-building workshop promotes wellness

On May 7, the Thompson Nicola District staff attended a "Team Building / Time Saving Workshop" in Logan Lake.

Effective February 1, the remaining Sign Shop staff became part of the District team in Kamloops. This was the first opportunity for the two groups to come together.

The purpose was to promote themes from our People Plan, namely wellness and team effectiveness. The group was divided into four teams to problem solve, brainstorm and develop strategies to improve interoffice relationships within the District.

For the first activity, each of the staff had three minutes to share a story or give a personal biography. The purpose of this activity was to bring staff closer on a personal level and share extra-curricular interests that may be of interest to others. This was humorous and informative. Everyone found this to be a valuable exercise.

The next event was to compose an image of each of the following themes:

- Work & Life Balance
- Cooperation / Trust
- Direction / Focus
- Teamwork
- Creative Thinking

Each group was given a camera and sent out to use Logan Lake as a backdrop and use local props to support each topic.

Left to Right - Vern Goodwin, Murray Smith, Percy Parent, Steve Andrews, Dave LaBar, Renee Mounteney

The third event was the pitch 'n' putt mini tournament. At every hole, each player shared a time-saving idea recently developed and used at work.

Eight staff played a fun round of golf after the eventful day. The day was a welcome change from the usual and a great way to get acquainted with coworkers.

Tom Freeman recognized

On June 14, 2004, Jacques Dupas, District Manager, West Kootenay; Todd Hubner, District Manager, Cariboo; and Norm Parkes, Regional Manager, Programming and Partnerships presented Tom Freeman, Manager, Program Development, with an award recognizing his extra efforts in supporting the minister's Regional Transportation Advisory Committees.

Tom consistently provided the Southern Interior's RTACs with timely, high-quality products which led to a successful inaugural year. His work demonstrated to the RTAC members how professional and dedicated ministry staff are.

Norm Parkes presents Tom Freeman with a gift certificate for a round of golf and a letter of appreciation

A note from the editor...

In reading "Leadership is an Art" by Max DePree recently, I came across this quote: "A whale is as unique as a cactus. But don't ask a whale to survive Death Valley. We all have special gifts. Where we use them and how determines whether we actually complete something."

Through the pages of the Road Runner, we can appreciate the uniqueness of our MoT family and the gifts each of us has! Enjoy this issue.

— Cindi

UVic co-op students make a difference

Since 1980, the Ministry of Transportation has been working with the University of Victoria (UVic) and its co-op students. To date, there have been over 225 co-op placements with our organization, and as we've seen a change in the way that our ministry does business, the type of student that we're recruiting has changed.

When the relationship with UVic was first formed, students were hired from disciplines such as Engineering, Computer Science/Math, Law, Physics and Physical Education.

More recently, as the ministry has started to emphasize efficient business practices as the means of delivering its services, an increase in business and social sciences students has been seen. In fact, in the past two years, some 17 MBA co-op students have worked in the ministry.

From left: Veronica Vacek, Siong Ng, Jeffrey Li, Hasit Joshi and Trish Sterloff

From left: Yongmei Chen, Patrick Spinks, Scott Gillespie, Lingxia Li and Eva Boenisch

The projects that the MBA co-op students have been able to work on have been quite diverse. Some of the work that they have contributed to involved district or regional staff as well as different branches within headquarters.

As a mutual benefit, the MBAs work on projects that utilize the skill sets that they are building during their studies. A sample of the projects they have contributed to are process streamlining, customer service and special projects such as Adopt a Highway.

Partnering with the University of Victoria and other universities throughout the province has proven to be successful from a succession viewpoint as well, with several of the students staying on for longer terms and working in capacities such as Project Managers, Acting Business Unit Managers and Project Leaders, to name just a few.

Seven Kootenay retirees honoured

Submitted by Chad Tenney, District Engineer

The West Kootenay District and the Nelson Regional Staff celebrated the careers of seven retirees last March.

A grand celebration was held in Nelson at the Granite Pointe Golf Course for Audrey Kempin, District Clerk; Graham Greensword, Area Manager; Monty Frederiksen, Surfacing Manager; Norm Yanke, Radio Technician; Dale Holmes, CITS Technician; Gord Walter, Field Services; and Armando Porco, Field Services.

Armando Porco

There was a great turnout including old retirees and current MoT staff from around the province. From what we have heard they are all enjoying retirement.

"FUN-raising" goal of August 15 darts event

Submitted by Beverly van Druten-Blais, Graphics Technician

Darts Victoria is holding its seventh annual Icebreaker Charity event on Aug. 15.

Basically it is a "FUN-RAISING" event for anybody and everybody (over 19) regardless of experience to get together for a day of hilarity while raising funds for the Victoria Hospice Foundation!

It's a great opportunity to meet new people, dust the darts off, learn, and/or prepare for the upcoming league season that starts in September.

I am Co-Chair of the 2005 Nationals Organizing Committee. We are running fund-raising events and activities to help offset the costs of hosting the 2005 Canadian Adult National Dart Championships here in Victoria from June 3-11. As part of that, I am selling chocolate-covered almonds in HQ's fourth-floor break rooms.

Creating active communities

This upcoming Pro Walk/Pro Bike 2004 conference is being held in Victoria from Sept. 7 to Sept. 10. Check out the Website: http://www.bikewalk.org/PWPB2004/PWPB2004.htm

New appointments - Headquarters

Registrar of Passenger Transportation

Submitted by Kathie Miller, ADM, Transportation Planning and Policy

On June 28, the Passenger Transportation Act came into force, replacing the Motor Carrier Act as the governing legislation for taxi, limousine, sightseeing, charter and shuttle bus services in British Columbia. The PTA improves access to the marketplace while improving levels of service and streamlining regulations.

The PTA creates a new position within the ministry. The Registrar of Passenger Transportation accepts all licence applications for commercial passenger transportation as identified in the Passenger Transportation Act. All applications are reviewed to determine whether they are for general passenger vehicles (e.g. shuttle services, sightseeing and tour buses), passenger directed vehicles (e.g. taxis and limousines) or inter-city buses.

Tom Greene

The Registrar is responsible for issuing all licences, authorizing investigations and initiating a range of compliance-related activities, including determining if vehicles meet safety standards and applying administrative penalties and fines for violations.

Tom Greene is British Columbia's first Registrar for Passenger Transportation. He comes into the position from Cabinet Operations. He reports directly to Kathie Miller, ADM, Transportation Planning and Policy Department, but his staff in the Passenger Transportation Branch (formerly the Motor Carrier Branch) work out of their office in Burnaby.

Tom will have an office in Victoria Headquarters but will average two or three days per week in Burnaby with the Passenger Transportation Branch.

Welcome to MoT, Tom!

***

Tom has provided some background about himself:

I've been married for 12 years to a wonderful woman. I have two great step-kids: a 30-year-old stepdaughter living in Vancouver who, with her husband of one year, is expecting her first child in December (we're thrilled, but still can't believe I'm about to become a grandfather!) and a 27-year-old stepson who is apprenticing to become a carpenter in Calgary. We live on a North Saanich acreage amidst the arbutus and fir trees where we can hear owls at night and view the stars as we don't have any street lights. My wife loves gardening and I spend endless weekend hours puttering around our property (when I'm not either cutting the grass in the summer or firewood in the winter).

We love to travel to "sunshine" destinations including Mexico and other parts of the Caribbean. We had an incredible four and a half week trek to New Zealand and the Cook Islands earlier this year.

I have heard from many over the years how the ministry is an "employer of choice" so I was thrilled to have the chance to join when I was offered a secondment opportunity.

My first weeks have been great. Everyone has been more than accommodating and extremely helpful and supportive. REALLY! A true feeling of working amongst a corporate family."

Kurt Edmunds: Business Manager, Deregulation

Submitted by Melanie Courchene, Director, Transportation Policy

Please join the Transportation Policy Branch in welcoming Kurt Edmunds. Kurt joins us on a temporary assignment as the Business Manager for the Deregulation Project.

For the next six months, Kurt will be coordinating the implementation and rollout of the new Transportation Act.

Kurt began his career with the Ministry of Transportation in 1980.

He has experience ranging from paving to development approvals and has worked in various locations throughout the province. Some of the varied projects he has worked on have been related to maintenance, business process re-engineering and, most recently, the utilities master agreement project.

He is currently a Provincial Approving Officer in Kelowna.

Please help all of us in Transportation Planning and Policy to make Kurt welcome in his new role here at Headquarters.

New appointments in the ministry

(Headquarters)

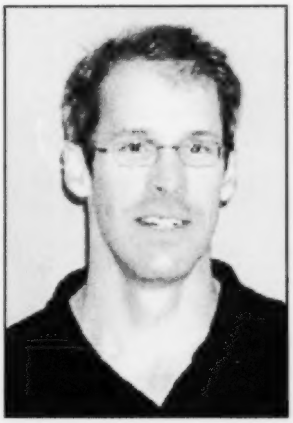
Jim Prewett

Submitted by David Fisher, Manager, Development Approvals

I am pleased to announce that Jim Prewett has taken a temporary appointment as Development Approvals Coordinator in the Highway Planning Branch here in Victoria, starting June 28.

Jim has many years of experience in district development approvals, supplemented by recent assignments in HQ, both of which will be of benefit in this role.

Jim will be working on upgrades to our web sites, to DAS and to policy and procedures, as well as providing routine coordination and support to the program and development approvals staff.



Jim Stobie

Submitted by Svein Haugen, A/Executive Director, Program Development & Monitoring

It is my pleasure to announce that Jim Stobie is the successful candidate for the Manager, Monitoring position with the Program Development & Monitoring Branch.

Jim has recently returned to the ministry following a one-year TA at the Ministry of Human Resources, where he evaluated the province's employment programs and had the opportunity to manage and supervise staff.

In addition to his recently attained skills, he was also a research officer with the BCTFA and MoT for the last nine years. Please join us in congratulating Jim!

(Cariboo District)

Al Kennedy

Al Kennedy, Bridge Area Manager, Highway 97 south of Williams Lake to Spences Bridge, Highway 99 to Blowdown Creek, Highway 24 to Bridge Lake.

Al brings a wealth of knowledge and experience, with 14 years of previous experience with the ministry and the last 16 years working with the maintenance contractor. Al is married, has two boys and enjoys water sports and woodworking.

Brad Moores

Brad Moores, Roads Area Manager in the Quesnel Service Area #18 (Quesnel West, Nazko, Blackwater and West Fraser Road)

Brad brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with him, with 10 years of previous experience working with the Ministry of Transportation and the last seven years working in the private sector with the road and bridge maintenance contractor.

Karen Jeff

Karen Jeff, District Clerk, Cariboo District, joined the ministry in 1992. In the last three years, she has been working in an as-and-when capacity but she was recently converted to a regular employee.

Cam Williams

Cam, newly appointed Weigh Scale Supervisor in Quesnel, started with the ministry in 1986 and for the last several years has worked as an Inspector with the Commercial Transport Inspection Branch.

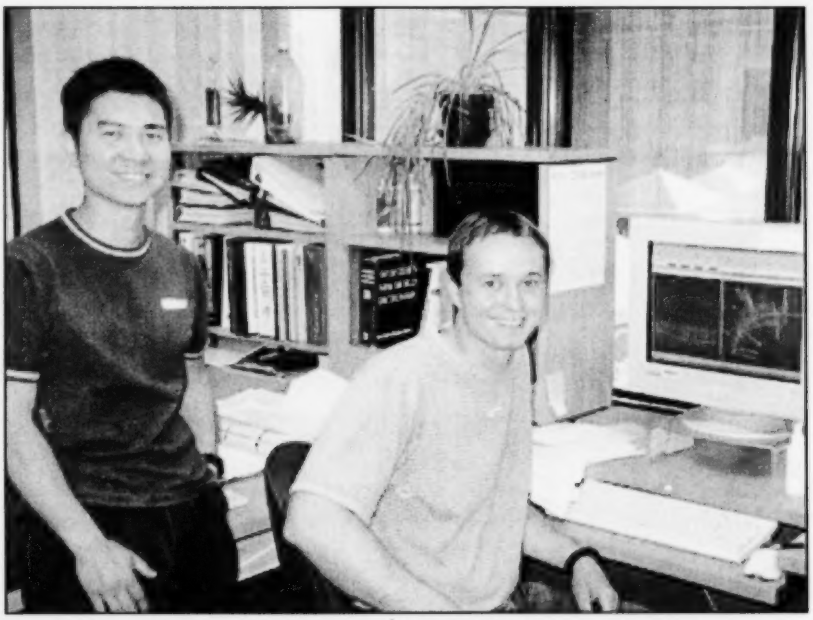
More new faces around the North

The design team of Northern Region is pleased to announce the arrival of their two newest recruits.

Dongqing Mao's wide array of knowledge and experience should prove to be an asset to the design group. Having completed his Civil Engineering degree in Guangzhou, China, Dongqing gathered on-site experience during a three-year stint in construction. He has participated in various concrete building activities including survey, project scheduling, quality control, and cost estimation.

In 2003, Dongqing graduated from the Civil & Structural Engineering program at BCIT and was soon employed by Emcon Services Inc. to implement Road and Bridge Maintenance quality assurance in Okanagan-Shuswap area.

With a strong interest in engineering design, Dongqing joyfully accepted the offer from the Ministry of Transportation, and began his career in the Northern Region on May 10.



Dongqing Mao and Curt Watts, two of Northern Region's newest employees

Curt Watts is a seasoned veteran of the north country, having lived in Prince George since the age of two. Last December, Curt graduated from the Engineering and Design Technology program at the College of New Caledonia. Over the course of the program, he enjoyed an eight-month work term in Kitimat working for a structural engineering firm, followed by another work term right here in the regional office last summer as a YEP in design and survey. After graduating, Curt again worked for the ministry as an auxiliary employee in design. Shortly after that auxiliary term, Curt entered the TELP program in the same capacity (design and survey).

Curt has been working to sharpen his survey and design skills and to learn the business of the ministry. Curt feels that his autoCAD skills have improved and he's now in the process of learning to use the CAiCE modeling program. Being able to stay in Prince George is one thing, but Curt says it was the wages, benefits and work environment that made the ministry position most appealing.

Larry Proteau

Submitted by Don Ramsay, DMT, Skeena

In April, Larry Proteau was appointed to a position as the Skeena District Development Technician / Assistant Area Manager in the Northern Region.

Larry is based in Terrace, and the picture at right, of Larry, his dog and his catch, tells the story of why he chooses to live and work in the beautiful Northwest.

New appointments in the ministry

(South Coast)

Alan Callander

So long and thanks for all the fish.

The Transportation Planning and Policy Department is pleased to announce that Alan Callander has started his first work assignment under the Management Development Program.

Alan has taken on a temporary appointment with the Vancouver Island District as an Operations Manager in training. The assignment is for four months with a possible extension to six months. He will be based out of the South Island Operations office, but will be exposed to work throughout the District. Alan's first day on his new assignment was July 5.

During his time with the district, Alan hopes to learn every aspect of how a district works.

The experience will be beneficial in developing his competencies for future management-level positions and will assist him in his base position as a policy analyst. Knowing how the ministry works at the district level will assist him in developing future policies that can be applied by ministry staff.

The ministry's Management Development Program provides participants with education, training and practical work experience to develop their management skills, while providing continually increasing responsibilities and complexity of assignments over a two to four year period.

The program was created to assist in developing future managers and leaders in the ministry. This is in recognition of the ministry's demographics and the expected gaps that retirements and other turnovers will create in the ministry over the next five to 10 years.

Alan Callander

We wish Alan all the best with his first MDP assignment and whatever comes next.

(Southern Interior)

Tracy Cooper

Tracy, our new Regional Director, came from Prince George where he was Acting Regional Director. We are glad to welcome Tracy back to the Region, as we appreciate the hard work and dedication he gave us when he was the District Highways Manager in Williams Lake.

Maurice LeFancois

Maurice started as Project Manager, Project Development, on May 10, and his work includes liaising with project management and planning. Maurice was the District Tech in Williams Lake and is excited to be in Kamloops.

(Northern Region)

Karen Westlund

Karen Westlund has joined the Northern Region as our new Pavement Markings Operations Coordinator. Karen has worked with Field Services, formerly known as the Construction Branch, since 1980. She worked on projects such as four-laning of the John Hart in Prince George, four-laning from Penticton to Summerland, Annais Island, Pine Pass and most recently on the Cottonwood Bridge realignment in Quesnel.

Karen reports, "I am very much enjoying my new position, although it was difficult to leave something I had been doing for 24 years. I find I am adjusting quite well and look forward to the new adventures that await me."

Field Services wishes Karen all the best in her new role!

What's new in South Coast Region

Submitted by Tina Johnston, A/Regional Management Administrator and Lorna Leslie, Special Events Coordinator

Returns:

- Patricia Wong has returned to the ministry as the new Regional Operations Technician.

Now working as regulars:

- Tim Dyer, Project Management Technician
- Gar Lee, Regional Project Manager

Moves:

- Brian Lee from Lower Mainland District has been appointed as the Regional Project Manager, Paving.
- David Lee left the District to take up his roll as the Regional Traffic Engineer.
- Henry Lew from Region 2 has transferred to the Program and Planning Engineer position.
- Steve Loptson is an EIT that is coming into the region with Traffic Operations.
- Loris Tomassel has recently been appointed to the District Technician in the LMD.
- Randy Grelson from Region 3 will be coming back to Region 1 as the Area Manager Roads in Squamish.
- Gerry Fleming is going to work as a Project Manager with the Gateway Program on a temporary appointment.
- Kim Knott from MPSSG has been appointed as supervisor, Haig Weigh Scale (Hope).
- Sarah Yan from MPSSG has been appointed as supervisor, Deas Weigh Scale (Massey Tunnel).
- Karen Peterson from MPSSG is on secondment to Air Care as an Emissions Enforcement Officer in New Westminster until December.
- Rose Brindley and Wayne Scott from Electrical District will be moving out of Nordel to take up residence in the LMD offices. Their actual move-in date is yet to be determined.

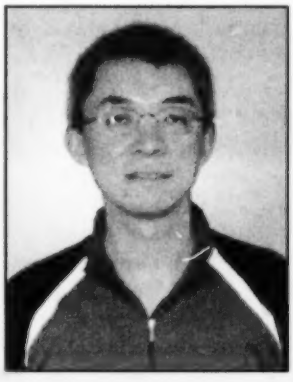
Newbies:

- Tom Simpson is our new Capital Programs Manager.
- Garret Heiman has joined the Lower Mainland District as the new District Engineer.
- Heather McDonald has come to help as our YEP student.
- Veronica Vacek has joined us temporarily as the "Adopt-a-Highway" coordinator.

Farewells:

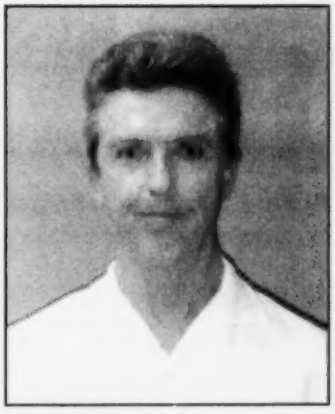
- Leslie Brown from Finance is bidding farewell to the ministry as she has been successful in a competition with the Ministry of Forests.

Brian Lee & Gar Lee



Henry Lew

Patricia Wong



Tom Simpson

Southern Interior appointments

Dan Prehara

Pavement Marking Operations Coordinator

Dave Prehara came to us after having spent all his career with the Geotech and Materials group. We wish Dave good luck as he keeps our lines bright, and we know he will live up to the challenges we are giving him.

Dan Gould

Regional Manager, Engineering

Dan joined SIR on June 1, 2004. Dan has a long history with the Construction Branch and Major Projects. You can mention Victoria, Nelson, the Sea-to-Sky project and the Gateway Program and Dan will be able to give you details.

Shawn Grant

Regional Traffic Engineer

Shawn came to us as an EIT and then worked as a Traffic Engineer. Shawn was successful in the competition after having been the A/ Regional Traffic Engineer for the past year. Congratulations and keep up the good work.

Karl Klingbeil

Senior First Nations Coordinator

Karl has worked in Geotech, Regional Planning and Development Approvals. We welcomed Karl to his new position in May 2004 and wish him all the best.

Mark Collins

Property Acquisitions Coordinator

This has been a busy year for Mark. Within the last 12 months he has held three positions within the Properties Branch. Congratulations on your latest appointment and good luck.

Shanna Mason

Director, Field Services

Shanna started with the ministry in 1997 as Regional Safety Officer in our old Regions 2 and 3 and went on to various jobs in Victoria, coming to her new job in May.

Ramona Holota

First Nations Coordinator

Ramona started with us on May 10 and is very excited about the opportunities of her position. We welcome her enthusiasm and are not sorry she left MLP to work with us.

Paul Riegert

A/Regional Operations Assistant

Paul started with the ministry in January 1995 as a shipper/receiver for the Sign Shop. Paul came to the regional office on April 1, 2004 and we wish him luck with all his new endeavours.